

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Sanitary Condition  
OF THE  
Hartismere  
Rural District

FOR THE

*Year ending DECEMBER 31st, 1914.*



EYE:

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### TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HARTISMERE.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition of your District for the year ending December 31st, 1914.

The district comprises the following parishes :—

Aspall	Rickingham Superior
Bacton	Rishangles
Botesdale	Stoke Ash
Braiseworth	Stuston
Brome	Thorndon
Burgate	Thornham Magna
Cotton	Thornham Parva
Finningham	Thwaite
Gislingham	Thrandeston
Mellis	Westhorpe
Mendlesham	Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford
Oakley	Wickham Skeith
Occold	Wortham
Palgrave	Wyverstone
Redgrave	Yaxley
Redlingfield	

Containing in 1911 a population of 11,486 ; estimated for 1914 as 11,478.

The whole district consists of a fairly flat country with small undulations. The soil varies in places from loam to clay and gravel. There are no large rivers but several streams, and the country is in most cases wooded.

The chief occupation carried on is that of Agriculture ; there are no big works or factories. Such factories as exist being steam mills, used in connection with old windmills. There are also a few houses of a residential nature.

I have no information as to the amount of Poor Relief in the district, there is no hospital accommodation in the district itself, the Workhouse Infirmary lying in the Borough of Eye, into which cases requiring treatment can be removed under the Poor Law.

**THE WATER SUPPLY.**—This is by means of shallow wells and ponds, and a few deep wells on private property. There are also in many cases public wells for the parishes—and in this direction I am glad to see new wells have been sunk in recent years, whilst this year a deep well has been sunk at Palgrave. The great difficulty in this district is that while a pure water supply can be got by sinking to a sufficient depth, this water is apt to be ferrugineous and unfit for domestic purposes, though organically and bacteriologically pure.

Samples of water have been taken in 20 cases, with the following result :—13 being satisfactory, 3 were of doubtful quality, while 4 were unfit for drinking and domestic uses. With regard to the two latter classes, the

necessary steps have been taken to remedy the faults complained of.

Owing to the summer drought and the presence of soldiers in the district, in some cases the water supply proved inadequate, and it became necessary to lock the wells and only allow their use during stated hours, in other cases to supply the cottages by means of a water-cart.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—There are no proper sewers in any of the parishes except those of Mendlesham and Palgrave, in both these cases there are sewers connected to tanks and overflowing to ditches, these have been cleansed periodically and kept in order.

A new sewer 50 yards long has been laid at Botesdale to enable a foul ditch to be filled in.

The sewerage works at Palgrave do not belong to your Council, but are the property of Diss Urban Council. These have been periodically inspected. During the month of August, owing to the presence of soldiers, the pumping operations were difficult to maintain, and your Inspector had cause to complain of a nuisance, which was then rectified.

Closet Accommodation is by means of earth closets and privies. In a district such as yours it seems very desirable that all privies should be abolished and replaced by properly constructed earth closets, but this is being gradually carried out by removing privies to which attention is called by a nuisance being created.

Scavenging is done by the inhabitants themselves and the usual plan is to use large brick bins.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS IN DISTRICT.

- 115 Written Notices to effect sanitary improvements.
- 159 Verbal Notices to effect sanitary improvements,
  - 2 New Privies built.
  - 4 Old Privies removed.
- 49 Old Privies cleansed and repaired.
- 10 Old Privies converted into Earth Closets.
  - 4 New Earth Closets built.
  - 2 New Pails for Old Earth Closets.
- 15 Houses Drainage reconstructed.
- 18 Houses Drains repaired.
- 16 Manure Heaps causing nuisances removed.
  - 6 Cases of Swine Nuisances removed.
  - 2 Cases of Geese and Ducks nuisances removed.
  - 6 Cesspools filled in.
- 42 Houses cleaned and fumigated.
  - 4 Premises cleansed.
- 17 Ditches cleansed.
  - 6 Dead Wells cleansed.
- 20 Samples of Water for analysis.
  - 4 Cases of Overcrowding abated.
  - 1 New Urinal provided.
  - 2 Old Urinals repaired.
  - 3 Dust Bins cleansed.
  - 1 Licence to Sell Petrol granted.
- 50 Yards of Sewer laid at Botesdale to replace foul ditch.

A new drainage scheme has been carried out under my personal supervision for the Kerrison School, Thordon. This consists of intercepting tanks and filters, and I think will be found a great improvement on the old system of emptying direct into the ditches ; at the same time the whole of the drains have been relaid with proper inspection chambers and traps.

SCHOOLS.—The only school in the district, with the exception of the Elementary Schools, is the Kerrison Reformatory School for 110 boys. This has its own water

supply from a deep well, and, as already stated, has now a complete drainage scheme. The excrement is disposed of by earth closets, the contents of which are daily dug into shallow trenches in the ground which is about to come under cultivation.

The school is under Home Office supervision.

The Elementary Schools are supervised by the County Medical Officer of Health, who is also school medical officer, and the closing of these in cases of illness is done by us in conjunction.

Several schools have been closed for various periods on the recommendation of the School Medical Officer for slight epidemics, colds, etc., and the Wickham Skeith School was closed on my recommendation owing to the epidemic of scarlet fever in September.

**MILK SUPPLY.**—No milk is imported into this district; in most cases the milk is supplied by the farmers direct to the immediate neighbours.

There are now only four dairies which supply milk for export to other parts of the county and towns, and which therefore come under the Dairy and Cowshed Act. These have been inspected and found in order, but a few improvements have been suggested and carried out.

#### HOUSING.

28 Houses have been reported during the year.

55 Houses have been repaired.

7 Closing Orders issued.

4 have been repaired after Closing Orders were made.

3 are still inhabited and these will require your further attention under the powers conferred by the House and Town Planning Act.

4 Cases of Overcrowding have occurred and been abated.

The standard of house accommodation considered fit

for habitation has necessarily to be low as the number of houses is so limited.

In the whole district there were only 100 houses unoccupied, of which 18 were in a dilapidated condition and unfit for habitation. 53 were fit for habitation, only 23 of these were to let, as the others were let and unoccupied.

I am glâd to know that the plans for new cottages are now in the hands of the Local Government Board for the parishes of Bacton, Wyverstone, Thorndon, Thrandeston and Wortham, and hope that when these are completed further building will be undertaken. Cottages are in my opinion also required in the following parishes, Braiseworth, Brome, Mendlesham, Oakley, Redlingfield, Thornham Magna, Thornham Parva, Wetheringsett, Rickinghall, Thwaite, and Westhorpe.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—The register contains the following entries :—

- 18 Steam and Windmills for grinding corn.
- 1 Sewage Farm.
- 30 Blacksmith's Shops.
- 6 Carpenter's Shops.
- 7 Wheelwright's Shops.
- 6 Wheelwright's and Carpenter's Shops.
- 7 Builder's Shops.
- 3 Builder's and Wheelwright's Shops.
- 3 Plumber's and Painter's Shops.
- 3 Coachbuilder's Shops.
- 3 Brickmaker's Yards.
- 4 Harness Maker's Shops.
- 5 Dressmaker's Shops.
- 5 Bootmaker's Shops.
- 2 Tailor's Shops.
- 2 Basket Maker's Shops.
- 1 Brushmaker's Shop.
- 3 Cycle Shops.
- 18 Retail Bakehouses.



All have been regularly inspected ; in all 216 visits were made.

- 31 Notices given.
- 18 Bake Offices cleansed.
- 1 Bake Office repaired.
- 1 Bake Office closed.
- 1 Windmill is dilapidated and unfit for use.
- 1 Dressmaking room closed.
- 3 Blacksmith's shops closed.
- 1 Blacksmith's shop repaired.
- 1 Premises cleansed.
- 3 Premises cleansed and repaired.
- 2 Premises converted to earth closets.
- 1 Premises re-drained.
- 2 Workshops cleansed.
- 3 Reports made to Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The number of infectious diseases notified was 94 :—

- 26 Diphtheria.
- 10 Erysipelas.
- 57 Scarlet Fever.
- 1 Puerpural Fever.

This large number of infectious diseases may be put down chiefly to two epidemics, one of diphtheria and one of scarlet fever.

The diphtheria epidemic began at the Kerrison School on January 8th, 1914, and lasted until August 6th, 1914. In all 23 cases occurred at this School, and it is remarkable that there was no spread outside the limits of the School area. It is also to be noted that in spite of every precaution being taken and efficient isolation being provided, cases cropped up again and again after long intervals of freedom. With the completion of the new Drainage Scheme, the disease seems to have died out, although it was impossible to trace the origin of the first

case to this cause. I can only suggest that some boy was admitted to the School who was a carrier, and so infected the others.

The other three cases occurred in one house at Mellis and were in no way connected with the Thorndon outbreak.

The Scarlet Fever epidemic began at Gislingham and spread from there to Thornham and from Thornham to Wickham.

There were also a few isolated cases in Occold, Thorndon, Rishangles and Aspell.

Lastly, there was an epidemic of the same disease among the troops billeted at Mendlesham, in all 18 cases occurred among troops.

This finally necessitated the opening of Yaxley House as an isolation hospital, where two of the soldiers were treated. I am glad to know that this house is now available for any case of infectious disease which may occur in the district, as the early isolation of cases is the only possible method of checking epidemics.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—There were 18 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 6 cases of other forms of tuberculosis.

These cases are notified to the County Medical Officer of Health, and a printed notice sent to the patient giving instructions for prevention of infection, and in case of removal or death the premises are disinfected.

The shelters in use are in need of new canvas, but owing to the War this is unobtainable. As the County authorities are willing to supply shelters, it does not seem necessary to advise any further action.

BIRTHS.—The corrected number of births registered in your district was 253, being a rate of 22·0 per 1,000. The rates in former years being :—

1913	...	22·3
1912	...	21·6
1911	...	21·4
1910	...	21·9
Average for the five years being	...	21·7

The birth rate for rural districts in England and Wales in 1914 was        per 1,000.

DEATHS.—The corrected number of deaths registered in your district was 161, being 14·0 per 1,000. The rates in former years were :—

1913	...	12·9
1912	...	12·2
1911	...	13·7
1910	...	11·8
Average for five years being	..	12·9

The corresponding death rate for rural districts in England and Wales being        per 1,000 in 1914.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The number of deaths under one year of age was 19, being 75 per 1,000 births. The corresponding rate in rural districts in England and Wales being

The billeting of troops in this district and the tabulating of buildings, etc., for the use of the military authorities, has prevented me from making a complete inspection of my district this year as I had intended to do.

Legal proceedings were taken in one case only.

I have to thank your Council and the Sanitary Inspector for the help they have given me during the past year, which was the first in which I had the honour to be your Medical Officer of Health.

I am, your obedient Servant,

HENRY E. BARNES, M.D.

# TABLES

Appended to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer  
of Health for the year 1914.



TABLE I.

## HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.†		Nett Deaths Belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.†	Of Residents not registered in the District.†	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.*	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2 *	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909.	11490	240	—	20·9	148	12·9	—	18	20	63	166	14·4
1910.	11488	252	—	21·9	122	10·6	—	13	20	79	135	11·8
1911.	11486	241	246	21·4	134	11·6	1	25	17	69	150	13·7
1912.	11486	238	242	21·0	118	10·0	—	23	12	50	141	12·2
1913.	11486	253	257	22·3	127	11·0	—	22	17	66	149	12·9
1914.	11478	249	253	22·0	138	12·0	5	28	19	75	161	14·0

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 49,109.

Total population at all ages, 11,486.  
 Total families or separate occupiers, 2,742 } At Census of 1911.

TABLE II.

## HARTSMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages.	At Ages†—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cholera, Plague .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous croup) .. ..	26	1	13	12	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas .. ..	10	—	1	1	2	5	1	—	
Scarlet fever .. ..	57	6	23	28	—	—	—	18	
Typhus fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Relapsing fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Continued fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal fever .. ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Polomyelitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	18	—	3	4	7	4	—	3	
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	6	—	2	1	2	—	1	—	
Totals .. ..	118	7	42	46	12	9	2	21	

Isolation Hospital—Yaxley House.

Beds are provided in Ipswich Sanatorium by East Suffolk County Council.



**TABLE III.** HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District (a).								Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District (b).	
			All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.		65 and upwards.
1			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes	{ Certified (c)	..	157	18	2	1	5	6	8	21	96	—
	{ Uncertified	..	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Enteric Fever	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Pox	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	..	..	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	—
Erysipelas	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	..	7	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	—
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	14	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	10	—
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (See note d)	..	..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Organic Heart Disease	..	..	25	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	21	—
Bronchitis	..	..	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	9	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	5	—
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Diarrhoea & Enteritis (See note e)	..	..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Alcoholism	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	..	..	9	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	3	—
Puerperal Fever	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	..	..	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violent Deaths, excluding	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	..	..	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Suicides	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Defined Diseases	..	..	60	4	2	—	2	1	2	2	47	—
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	..	..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Senile Decay	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	..	..	161	19	2	1	5	6	8	21	99	—
Sub-Entries												
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IV.

HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.  
INFANT MORTALITY.

1914. Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-5 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	Certified	... ..	10	—	2	1	13	1	1	—	3	18
	Uncertified	.. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Small-pox	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Whooping Cough	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria and Croup	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Erysipelas	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Meningitis	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Abdominal Tuberculosis ( <i>b</i> )	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> )	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Convulsions	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Laryngitis	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bronchitis	.. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Pneumonia (all forms)	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Diarrhoea	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Enteritis	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gastritis	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Suffocation, overlying	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at Birth	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atelectasis	... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Congenital Malformatns. ( <i>c</i> )	.. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Premature Birth	... ..	4	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	5
	Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	... ..	4	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
	Other causes	... ..	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	1	4
			10	...	2	1	13	1	1	1	3	19

Nett Births in the year: legitimate, 231; illegitimate, 22.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 17; of illegitimate infants, 2.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

**TABLE V.**  
**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES & HOMEWORK, 1914.**  
**1.—INSPECTION.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	30	0	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	186	31	0
Workplaces ..	0	0	0
Homeworkers' Premises ..	0	0	0
Total ..	216	31	0

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

### Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—

29 found, 29 remedied.

### 3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Matters Notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—

Failure to Affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)

Underground Bakery	...	...	...	...
Bakery	...	...	...	...
Homework	...	...	...	...

Workshops on Register at end of 1914:—

[illegible][illegible]

Builders, Carpenters, Painters, &c.	...	...	...	32
Cochbuilders and Cycle Repairers	...	...	...	6

[illegible][illegible]

Dressmakers, Tailors, Bootmakers	... ..	... ..	... ..	12 ]
Retail Bakehouses ...	... ..	... ..	... ..	18 ]

Total	126
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TABLE VI.

## HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

## HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Inspections during 1914 under Section 17 (1) of the Housing, Town Planning, &amp;c., Act, 1909.

PARISH.	Houses Inspected.	Houses Considered Unfit for Human Habitation.	Number of Representations with view to Closing Order.	Closing Orders made.	Repaired without Closing Order.	Houses Repaired after Closing Order.	General Character of Defects Found.
Aspall	1	...	...	...	1	...	Defective Roofs and Chimneys, Walls and Foundations, Dilapidated Windows, Doors, Floors, &c., and Insufficient Ventilation.
Bacton	2	2	...	...	1	...	
Botesdale	3	...	...	...	3	...	
Braiseworth	2	2	...	...	...	...	
Brome	10	3	3	3	4	3	
Burgate	3	1	...	...	3	...	
Cotton	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Finningham...	2	...	...	...	2	...	
Gislingham	1	1	...	...	1	...	
Mellis	3	3	...	...	3	...	
Mendlesham	3	2	...	...	3	...	
Oakley	8	4	3	3	5	...	
Occold	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Palgrave	3	...	...	...	3	...	
Redgrave	2	...	...	...	2	...	
Redlingfield...	2	1	1	1	...	1	
Rickingham Superior	2	2	...	...	...	...	
Rishangles	1	1	...	...	1	...	
Stoke Ash	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Stuston	1	1	...	...	1	...	
Thorndon	4	4	...	...	...	...	
Thornham Magna	6	...	...	...	6	...	
Thornham Parva	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Thrandeston	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Thwaite	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Westhorpe	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford...	5	...	...	...	5	...	
Wickham Skeith	1	...	...	...	1	...	
Worham	2	...	...	...	2	...	
Wyverstone	7	...	...	...	7	...	
Yaxley	1	1	...	...	1	...	
	75	28	7	7	55	4	